

PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER
NATURAL
RESOURCES
DISTRICT

8901 S. 154th Street
Omaha, NE 68138-3621
402-444-6222
www.papionrd.org

May 18, 2009

Finding Solutions Today
For a Secure Tomorrow

Honorable Governor David Heineman
State of Nebraska
PO Box 94848
Lincoln NE 68509

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MAY 19 2009

Gov's Policy Research

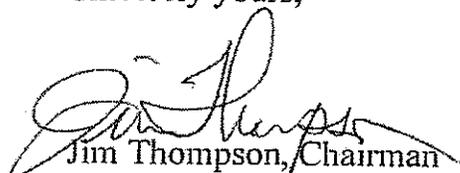
Re: LB 160

Honorable Governor Heineman:

It has been brought to my attention that my prior letter of this date containing the background information concerning LB 160 did not have the clarity I intended with regard to the question you raised concerning taxes. Let me be clear: There is no intent on my part, as Board Chairman, or on the part of the NRD Board, to raise property taxes as the result of the passage of LB 160. On the contrary, because of the funding efficiencies provided by bonding authority we will be able to avoid a tax increase.

Again, as stated in my previous letters, please feel free to contact me with any questions on my cell: (402) 672-0603 or at my home: (402) 342-4371.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Thompson, Chairman
Papio-Missouri River NRD

Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District Board of Directors

Larry Bradley Fred Conley John Conley Tim Fowler Scott Japp David Klug Rick Kolowski
Dorothy Lanphier John Schwope Richard Tesar Jim Thompson
John Winkler, General Manager

May 18, 2009

The Hon. David Heineman
Governor
State of Nebraska
PO Box 94848
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 160



**Finding Solutions Today
For a Secure Tomorrow**

Dear Governor Heineman:

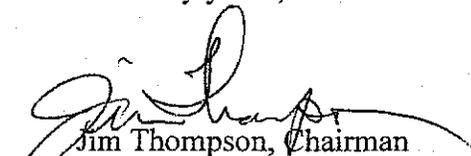
Thank you for your letter of May 14, 2009, expressing your concern about a property tax increase should LB 160 become law. Currently our levy is set at .033753 cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation. Of that amount, we have been allocating one cent into a reserve account to help fund, in the long term, the acquisition of land and subsequent construction of flood protection and water quality structures. This reserve account would take about a decade to fund a single structure.

The passage of LB 160 allows the issuance of bonds under our existing mill levy authority not to exceed one cent. By authorizing issuance of bonds for flood protection and water quality enhancement projects, LB 160 allows the District to complete projects in a much more efficient and cost effective manner. The current process subjects taxpayers to years of compounded double-digit construction and land cost increases that make it practically impossible to accumulate enough funds to complete projects in a timely manner. In the meantime, the threat of disaster due to the normal urbanization process continues.

It is my clear intention, as Chairman of the Board, to replace the reserve account penny with the bonding authority penny. Consequently, all other factors being equal, the property tax levied by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District would not increase.

Because of our deep concern for the potential devastation and loss of life that threaten areas of the Papio-Missouri NRD due to the high flood risk existing in the Papio Creek watershed, I certainly encourage your favorable action on this important bill. You will be provided under separate cover a complete briefing packet containing additional information surrounding the merits of LB 160. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on my cell: (402) 672-0603 or at home: (402) 342-4371.

Sincerely yours,



Jim Thompson, Chairman
Papio-Missouri River NRD

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